4/18/70

Dear Harold,

Just got your letter of 4/16 re. Nichols.

I know not what to make of his sudden desire to get the PM's. I had assumed until I met him that he had read PM III. However, he did not seem to have too good a grasp of the panel report except (and not very good here either) with the actual medical data in it. He said one thing to me, however, which proved that he hadn't read PMIII. When we were discussing whether the autopsy docs actually saw the neck fragments, he said that he doubted, based on Finck's NO, that they hadXXX. He added that they saw the X-rays in 1967 and did not see them then. With this, he asked me if I had seen the other report released by DJ. I said yes, and he said that they say here that there were no fragments. Clearly, he did not understand what he read for you point out in PM III the bit with "no major portions." I did not tell him this since I assume you want the things in those books confidential.

John could not have gotten your letter of the 12th since he has been in Phila since the 13th. His letter to me said this and I talked to him on the phone on the 13th. He XX was here for the week to attend meetings of the American College of Physicians.

If you recall what I mentioned confidentially in my memo of my meeting with him--that he was seeking the radiologist's report, you will understand at least some of his travelling. He said that the Archives denies having this. Therefore, he is checking with a lot of the military top brass involved even if peripherily in the autopsy to see if he can locate it. He told me that he went to Washington to talk to a couple Admirals (?) in this vien. He also said he had spoken with one in Phila--all with no success.

This is about all I know in connection with his travelling and knowledge of PM. John is very nice but, in many wyas, eccentric. Of course, I could not know what goes on XX in his mind. Sometimes he would just sit and listen to me (I explained how I felt LHO was innocent) and almost go into a daze. He seems very proud of "his" work even when I knew in some cases it was not entirely if at all his.

You should have my long memo of our meeting which goes into detail on what we discussed. I do not believe he ever tried to probe me or pull things out of me. He complimented me once by saying we might know more today if everyone asked the kind of questions I did.

If you were going to get things from the agency, I don't see how Archives can suppress it from you. If you have all this in writing, I suppose it might make a case.

Best,

Jim